Plans for Educating Coconut Farmers

7427. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the specific plans proposed to be formulated by Coconut Development Board to educate coconut farmers on better marketing possibilities;

(b) whether Coconut Development Board will encourage formation of cooperative marketing societies for coconut marketing; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The Coconut Development Board provides guidelines to farmers, entrepreneurs etc. for processing, marketing and export of coconut and its products. Potential buyers and suppliers of various coconut products within the country and outside are linked for better marketing. National and State level Seminar on Marketing and Processing of Coconut were conducted by the Board to educate the growers and processors. Market Intelligence is also disseminated through publications. The Board also proposes to conduct a National level study on production, demand and export potential of coconut and its products.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Non-Inclusion of Tobacco Under Subsidy Sprinkler Irrigation

7428. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has not included tobacco cultivation for subsidy available for sprinkler irrigation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what other crops will be given subsidy for sprinkler irrigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (a) and (b) Tobacco Board of the Ministry of Commerce provides sprinkler irrigation sets on subsidy basis to growers for cultivation of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco in the light soils.

(c) The assistance is provided for sprinkler irrigation sets in pulses, oilseeds, paddy, wheat, coarse-cereals and cotton crops.

Agricultural Investment in Northern States

7429. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) the total amount of investment made by Government in the field of agriculture in Northern States during the Seventh and Eights Five Year Plans;

(b) the investment made during that period in other States of Eastern, Sourthern and Western region;

(c) the steps taken to remove regional imbalance while making investment on Agriculture; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Planning is responsible for bringing out estimates of Investment in Agriculture at All-India level only. However, as per the latest available information from States a Statement is Annexed (*See* Appendix-173, Annexure No. 161.)

(c) and (d) The various Centrally sponsored programmes taken up by the Central Government not only supplement the efforts of State Governments in raising agricultural probduction, but also aims at fulfilling national objectives and removed or reducing variations in development and growth. These are also designed as innovative or pilot programmes for accelerating the pace of development. The

Centrally sponsored programmes cover schemes of national importance such as foodgrains production, development of dryland agriculture, Oilseeds and pulses, Horticulture, Integrated Pest Management, integrated resource development in the catchments of selected rivers etc. In the ongoing Eighth Plan also emphasis has been laid on balanced Regional Development in Agriculture.

Stagnation in Prawn Farming in Orissa

7430. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are award of the stagnation in prawn farming in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to remove the bottlenecks in prawn farming; and

(d) the detailed steps taken to increased prawn farming in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) There is no stagnation in prawn farming in Orissa.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

(d) The major steps taken by the Government include:

(i) setting up of shrimp seed hatcheries at Gopalpur and Chandrabhaga with a designed capacity for producing about 85 million shrimp seed per annum;

(ii) estabilshment of Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies in seven coastal districts for providing a package of technical, financial and extension support to shrimp farmers;

(iii) encouraging setting up of semi-intensive shrimp farms and shrimp hatcheries, etc. in the public/private sector;

(iv) programme for development of semi-intensive shrimp farming in a total water spread area of about 900 ha under a World Bank assisted Shrimp and Fish Culture Project;

(v) encouraging establishment of brood stock/spawner banks;

(vi) setting up of demonstration-cum-training centres for human resource development.

Development of Rainfed Areas

7431. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether priority has been accorded by Government for the development of extensive rainfed areas;

(b) if so, the percentage of such rainfed areas in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the specific schemes proposed for the development of those rainfed areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Statement-I is enclosed *(See* below).

(c) Statement-II is enclosed.